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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY (PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below

International application No.
PCT/GB2005/000889

International filing date (day/month/year)
08.03.2005

Priority date (day/month/year)
08.03.2004

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
H02G3/04

Applicant
RUDDICK, Paul David

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220

Name and mailing address of the ISA



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**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

International application No.
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Box No. I Basis of the opinion

- 1 With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

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Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43*bis*.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-10
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	1-10
	No: Claims	
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-10
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING
AUTHORITY (SEPARATE SHEET)**

International application No.

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Re Item V

**Reasoned statement with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement**

Reference is made to the following document:

D1: US 4 629 826 A

1. The document D1 is regarded as being the closest prior art to the subject-matter of claim 1, and shows (the references in parentheses applying to this document): a conduit (10) having a substantially semi-circular outer cross-section comprising a base portion (16) and a lid portion (20), the lid portion (20) being attached to the base portion (16) by a hinge (24).

The subject-matter of claim 1 differs from this known conduit in that the hinge is located at an angular elevation from the base of between 10° and 35°, the base portion having a clip socket for retaining the clip, wherein the clip socket comprises an outer wall, which forms part of the semi-circular outer cross-section, and an inner wall, between which is defined a channel for the clip, the height of the inner wall above the bottom of the base portion being substantially the same as the height of the hinge above the bottom of the base portion.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is therefore new (Article 33(2) PCT).

The problem to be solved by the present invention may be regarded as dust gathering in the corners formed with the surface, on which the conduit is mounted, as well as, at the same time, the location of the hinge immediately adjacent said surface causing difficulties in opening the conduit, and in closing the conduit due to the relationship between the location of the hinge and the location the clip.

The solution to this problem proposed in claim 1 of the present application is considered as involving an inventive step (Article 33(3) PCT) for the following reason:

There is no hint in the prior art for the solution proposed by the invention.

2. Claims 2-10 are dependent on claim 1 and as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to novelty and inventive step.

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3. The criteria as set forth in Article 33(4) PCT with respect to industrial applicability are fulfilled, since the subject-matter of claims 1-10 deals with a conduit comprising a base portion and a lid portion.

REMARKS:

1. The embodiment of invention according to figures 3 and 4 relating to a conduit having a substantially quarter-circular outer cross-section does not seem to be covered by claim 1 relating to a conduit having a substantially semi-circular outer cross-section.
2. In claim 2, page 7, line 18, the value 5° of the angle does not match the value 10° as specified on page 2, line 30.
3. In claim 5, page 7, at the end of line 30, it should be stated "less" instead of "more" (cf. page 3, line 6; page 5, lines 25-27; figures 1-4).
4. The features of the claims 1-10 are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).